CLAIMS

1. A packing member comprising:

a structure for accommodating a cartridge for use with an image forming apparatus, the structure including a surface extending along a first direction, and an end surface extending along a direction crossing the first direction; and

a cylindrical sheet for wrapping said structure, the cylindrical sheet including

a first portion and a second portion, the first portion including a display portion and having a heat contraction property, the second portion having an elasticity and the first portion is pulled by the second portion such that the structure is tightened by the first portion and the second portion,

wherein said display portion is positioned on the surface, and

wherein free end portions of said first portion and said second portion contract so as to cover at least part of the end surface of said structure.

2. A packing member according to Claim 1, wherein said second portion has a heat contraction property.

3. A packing member according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said structure includes a second display portion at an outer surface thereof, and

wherein said cylindrical sheet partly includes a transparent portion through which said second display portion is visible.

4. A packing method of a structure for accommodating a cartridge for use with an image forming apparatus by a cylindrical sheet, wherein the structure includes a surface extending along a first direction, and an end surface extending along a direction closing the first direction, the cylindrical sheet includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion including a display portion and having a heat contraction property, and the second portion having an elasticity, said packing method comprising:

a first step of bonding the first portion and the second portion to each other;

a second step of forming the cylindrical sheet by bonding the first sheet and the second sheet in a state in which the display portion is positioned on the surface and tension is caused to act on the second portion; and

a third step of contracting free end portions of the first portion and the second portion

so as to cover at least part of the end surface.

5. A packing method according to Claim 4, further comprising a fourth step of forming a second display portion at an outer surface of the structure,

wherein as the first portion, a sheet partly including a transparent portion is used, and in said first step, the first portion is disposed so that the second display portion of said structure is visible through the transparent portion.

6. A packing method according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein the second portion has a heat contraction property.

7. A packing method of a structure for accommodating a cartridge for use with an image forming apparatus by a cylindrical sheet, wherein the structure includes a surface extending along a first direction of the structure and an end surface extending along a direction crossing to the first direction, and the cylindrical sheet including a display portion and partly having a heat contraction property, said packing method comprising:

a first step of providing the structure in the cylindrical sheet so that the display portion is positioned on the surface; and

a second step of contracting the cylindrical sheet by heating means so as to cover at least part of the end surface while raising a portion, extending in the first direction from a portion contacting a bottom of the structure, upwardly with respect to a vertical direction.

8. A packing method according to Claim 7, wherein in said second step, a contraction preventing mechanism for suppressing heat conduction to the display portion is provided in a neighborhood of the end surface.

9. A packing method according to Claim 8, wherein in the second step, the structure, the cylindrical sheet and the contraction preventing mechanism are disposed in a listed order with respect to the direction crossing the first direction.

10. A packing method according to Claim 9, wherein the contraction preventing mechanism is disposed with an interval relative to the cylindrical sheet.

11. A packing method according to any one of Claims 7 to 10, wherein the cylindrical sheet includes a first portion having the display portion and a heat

contraction property and a second portion having an elasticity higher than that of the first portion.

12. A packing method according to Claim 11, further comprising a third step of forming a second display portion at an outer surface of the structure,

wherein as the first portion, a sheet partly including a transparent portion is used, and in said first step, the first portion is disposed so that the second display portion is visible through the transparent portion.

13. A packing method according to Claim 11, wherein the second portion has a heat contraction property, and

wherein in said second step, free end portions of the first portion and the second portion are thermally contracted so as to cover at least part of the end surface.

14. A packing member according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of the structures is integrally wrapped by the cylindrical sheet.

15. A packing method according to Claim 4, wherein a plurality of the structures in integrally wrapped by the cylindrical sheet.

16. A packing method according to Claim 7, wherein a plurality of the structures in integrally wrapped by the cylindrical sheet.

17. A packing member according to Claim 1, wherein the second portion having the elasticity higher than that of the first portion.

18. A packing method according to Claim 4, wherein the second portion having the elasticity higher than that of the first portion.

19. A packing member according to any one of claims 1 to 3, 14 and 17, wherein with respect to the circumference direction of the cylindrical sheet, the first portion is longer than the second portion.

20. A packing method according to any one of claims 4 to 6, 15 and 18, wherein with respect to the circumference direction of the cylindrical sheet, the first portion is longer than the second portion.

21. A packing method according to Claim 7 to 13 and 16, wherein the cylindrical sheet includes a first portion and a second portion, the first portion including the display portion and having the heat

contraction property, and the second portion having an elasticity,

wherein the respect to the circumference direction of the cylindrical sheet, the first portion is longer than the second portion.